

96TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. R. 65

To improve congressional oversight of Federal programs and activities by requiring greater specificity in setting program objectives, by requiring continuing information on the extent to which programs are achieving their stated objectives, by requiring periodic review of new authorizations of budget authority and tax expenditures, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 1979

Mr. DERRICK (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ANNUNZIO, Mr. BURGNER, Mr. CARR, Mr. CLEVELAND, Mr. D'AMOURS, Mr. DERWINSKI, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DUNCAN of Oregon, Mr. EMERY, Mr. ERTEL, Mr. FASCELL, Mr. FRENZEL, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. GIAIMO, Mr. GUDGER, Mr. GUYER, Mr. HOLLAND, Mrs. HOLT, Mr. HYDE, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. JENNETTE, Mr. JONES of Oklahoma, Mr. KINDNESS, Mr. LEE, Mr. LENT, Mr. LUKE, Mr. MCCORMACK, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. MAGUIRE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. OTTINGER, Mr. PATTERSON, Mr. PRITCHARD, Mr. PURSELL, Mr. ROUSSELOT, Mr. SANTINI, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. WHITTAKER, Mr. WINN, and Mr. WON PAT) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Government Operations and Rules.

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## A BILL

To improve congressional oversight of Federal programs and activities by requiring greater specificity in setting program objectives, by requiring continuing information on the extent to which programs are achieving their stated objectives, by requiring periodic review of new authorizations of budget authority and tax expenditures, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That this Act may be cited as the "Legislative Oversight Act  
4       of 1979".

5                               FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

6       SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that there is a recog-  
7       nized need for more effective oversight of Federal programs  
8       and activities in order to conserve and use more efficiently  
9       increasingly scarce Federal budget resources; that a major  
10      barrier to effective oversight is the lack of adequate spec-  
11      ificity in the statement of objectives in the laws authorizing  
12      numerous Federal programs and activities; and that the Con-  
13      gress lacks continuing information on the extent to which  
14      programs and activities are achieving their stated objectives.

15      (b) The purpose of this Act is to improve congressional  
16      oversight of Federal programs and activities by—

17               (1) requiring greater specificity in establishing the  
18      objectives of Federal programs and activities;

19               (2) providing for continuing information from  
20      agencies administering Federal programs and activities  
21      on the extent to which such programs and activities  
22      are achieving their specific objectives; and

23               (3) requiring periodic review of programs and ac-  
24      tivities to assure that budget resources are used effi-  
25      ciently in meeting national needs.

1 TITLE I—REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION  
2 BILLS

3 REQUIREMENT THAT BILLS INCLUDE STATEMENTS OF OB-  
4 JECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRODUCTION OF  
5 CERTAIN INFORMATION

6 SEC. 101. It shall not be in order in either the House of  
7 Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill or resolu-  
8 tion which, directly or indirectly, authorizes the enactment of  
9 new budget authority or provides new or increased tax ex-  
10 penditures, as defined in section 3(a) of the Congressional  
11 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, or which  
12 provides new spending authority as defined in section 401(c)  
13 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act  
14 of 1974, unless such bill or resolution includes—

15 (1) a statement of the specific objectives and  
16 planned annual accomplishments of each program being  
17 authorized; and

18 (2) a requirement that the agency or agencies ad-  
19 ministering each such program report annually to the  
20 Congress specified information which the Congress de-  
21 termines will best assist it in evaluating the extent to  
22 which the program is meeting the objectives and ac-  
23 complishment plans set forth in the bill or resolution  
24 pursuant to paragraph (1).

1 The objectives, planned accomplishments, and information  
2 reporting requirements set forth in the bill or resolution pur-  
3 suant to this section shall be stated in such terms as will  
4 require the agency or agencies administering the program, in  
5 the annual reports, to provide concise measures of all of the  
6 costs and accomplishments of the program and of each of the  
7 major activities comprising the program, to compare the  
8 costs and accomplishments of such activities within the pro-  
9 gram where appropriate, and to compare the costs and ac-  
10 complishments of the program to those of other governmental  
11 and nongovernmental programs having similar or related  
12 objectives.

13 AGENCY REPORTS

14 SEC. 102. On October 15 of each year, each agency  
15 administering a program authorized under legislation to  
16 which section 101 applied shall submit, through the Director  
17 of the Office of Management and Budget, a brief report to the  
18 Congress on the extent to which such program, including the  
19 activity or activities comprising such program, is meeting the  
20 specific objectives and annual accomplishment plans set forth  
21 in that legislation. Such reports shall comply with the re-  
22 quirements set forth in the legislation pursuant to section 101  
23 and shall emphasize, to the extent practicable, quantitative  
24 measures of all program costs and accomplishments, includ-  
25 ing comparisons of costs and accomplishments between the

1 program set forth in the legislation and other governmental  
2 and nongovernmental programs having similar or related ob-  
3 jectives. Reports may also contain such additional informa-  
4 tion on costs, accomplishments, and deficiencies as the head  
5 of the administering agency may deem appropriate. In order  
6 to assist the Congress in determining whether programs  
7 should be reauthorized, modified, or discontinued, the agency  
8 report submitted with respect to any program in the year  
9 preceding the expiration of a multiyear authorization for such  
10 program shall summarize the significant findings contained in  
11 each of the annual reports which have been submitted with  
12 respect to that program since its most recent authorization  
13 was enacted.

14 TITLE II—REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTS

15 ACCOMPANYING AUTHORIZATION BILLS

16 STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, IMPACTS, AND COSTS

17 SEC. 201. (a) It shall not be in order in either the House  
18 of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill or reso-  
19 lution which, directly or indirectly, authorizes the enactment  
20 of new budget authority or provides new or increased tax  
21 expenditures, as defined in section 3(a) of the Congressional  
22 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, or which  
23 provides new spending authority, as defined in section 401(c)  
24 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act

1 of 1974, unless the report accompanying such bill or resolu-  
2 tion contains a statement which—

3 (1) sets forth the specific objectives and planned  
4 annual accomplishments of each program being author-  
5 ized, its expected economic and social impact on indi-  
6 viduals or groups intended to be served and upon  
7 others whom the program will directly affect, the rela-  
8 tionship of all expected costs of the program to such  
9 planned annual accomplishments and to other govern-  
10 mental and nongovernmental programs and activities  
11 having similar or related objectives, and the necessity  
12 for, appropriate extent of, and anticipated duration of  
13 Federal support of the program;

14 (2) identifies potentially or actually conflicting,  
15 overlapping, or duplicative programs and activities in  
16 other governmental and nongovernmental programs,  
17 and explains the relationship of such programs and ac-  
18 tivities to the program being authorized;

19 (3) identifies previous efforts to accomplish the ob-  
20 jectives of the program, and compares the costs and  
21 accomplishments of such efforts to the expected costs  
22 and accomplishments of the activities to be authorized;  
23 and

24 (4) where provisions of Federal law conflict with

1       obsolete in relation to the objectives of such program,  
2       sets forth recommendations for eliminating such con-  
3       flicting or obsolete provisions.

4       (b) When an existing authorization of budget authority  
5       or tax expenditure is to be continued under a new authoriza-  
6       tion, the report submitted pursuant to this section shall con-  
7       tain, in addition to the statement required by subsection (a),  
8       an assessment of the degree to which such program or tax  
9       expenditure has met previously stated objectives.

10       CATALOG OF INTERRELATED FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

11       SEC. 202. In order to assist the Congress in preparing  
12       the statements required by section 201, the Comptroller  
13       General of the United States in consultation with the Direc-  
14       tor of the Office of Management and Budget, within six  
15       months after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall pub-  
16       lish a descriptive catalog of interrelated Federal activities,  
17       including tax expenditures, organized according to such clas-  
18       sification scheme or schemes as may be deemed appropriate  
19       to the requirements of section 201. Such catalog shall in-  
20       clude—

21               (1) comparisons of program costs (including non-  
22       Federal costs and, to the extent practicable, costs per  
23       unit) and accomplishments among programs having  
24       similar or related objectives, using, insofar as possible,

1 information developed by agencies in reports submitted  
2 pursuant to section 102;

3 (2) descriptions of program interrelationships, in-  
4 cluding identification of duplicative or overlapping pro-  
5 grams and activities, and identification of provisions of  
6 law which authorize activities for which funds were not  
7 provided in the most recently concluded fiscal year and  
8 which may be obsolete; and

9 (3) descriptions of State and local government  
10 programs and private activities having similar or re-  
11 lated objectives, including information on program  
12 costs and, to the extent practicable, costs per unit.

13 The Comptroller General shall periodically update the cata-  
14 log, or sections thereof, with due consideration for the legis-  
15 lative programs of the various committees of the Congress;  
16 emphasize in the initial version of the catalog those activity  
17 areas expected to receive earliest consideration by the Con-  
18 gress; and provide such assistance to the committees of the  
19 Congress as may be necessary for fulfilling the requirements  
20 of sections 101 and 201.

### 21 TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET

#### 22 RECOMMENDATIONS

23 SEC. 301. The annual budget submitted by the Presi-  
24 dent in accordance with section 201 of the Budget and Ac-  
25 counting Act, 1921, shall describe briefly the relationship be-



1 tween his recommendations on program budgets and the pro-  
2 gram accomplishments reported pursuant to section 102 of  
3 this Act.

4 TITLE IV—AUTHORIZATION TIME LIMIT;  
5 CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS NOT IMPAIRED

6 AUTHORIZATION TIME LIMIT

7 SEC. 401. It shall not be in order in either the House of  
8 Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill or resolu-  
9 tion which, directly or indirectly, authorizes the enactment of  
10 new budget authority or provides new or increased tax ex-  
11 penditures, as defined in section 3(a) of the Congressional  
12 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, or which  
13 provides new spending authority, as defined in section 401(c)  
14 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act  
15 of 1974, for a time period exceeding five years.

16 CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS NOT IMPAIRED

17 SEC. 402. Nothing in section 401 shall be construed to  
18 impair or prevent—

19 (1) the payment of interest or the repayment of  
20 principal due lenders on debt instruments of the United  
21 States Government or its agencies irrespective of the  
22 date the obligations involved were incurred or the date  
23 such payment or repayment may be due; or

24 (2) the payment to individuals of benefits to which  
25 they are entitled by virtue of payments made by them

1 and deposited directly or indirectly into Federal trust  
2 funds.

3 TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS;  
4 EFFECTIVE DATE

5 EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS

6 SEC. 501. The provisions of this Act (except sections  
7 102, 301, and 502) are enacted by the Congress—

8 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the  
9 House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively,  
10 and as such they shall be considered as part of the  
11 rules of each House, respectively, and such rules shall  
12 supersede other rules only to the extent that they are  
13 inconsistent therewith; and

14 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional right  
15 of either House to change such rules (so far as relating  
16 to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and  
17 to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of  
18 such House.

19 EFFECTIVE DATE

20 SEC. 502. Except as provided in section 202, the provi-  
21 sions of this Act shall take effect on the first day of the  
22 second session of the Ninety-sixth Congress.

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